

## REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic discussion held on July 8, 2009, during which the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was discussed. In the course of this discussion, Applicants' attorney and the Examiner agreed upon claim amendments to resolve various issues raised in the Notice.

The present invention provides solid oxide fuel cells that include, *inter alia*, a solid electrolyte and a ceramic anode bonded to one another, the fuel cells being capable of directly operating on a sulfur-containing hydrocarbon fuel having two or more carbons. The inventive fuel cells accordingly enable extraction of energy from such fuels without the need for costly, energy-inefficient reformation or other pre-treatment processes.

In accordance with the July 8, 2009 telephonic interview, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above to resolve the formality issues raised in the pending Notice. Applicants have also canceled claim 66 and its related dependent claims so to advance prosecution in this case. Applicants do not, however, concede that these claims are unpatentable, and reserve the right to pursue one or more of these claims in subsequent, related applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments set forth place the pending claims in proper form for examination. For all of the reasons set forth in their response filed June 10, 2009 (the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference), Applicants submit that the rejections of the pending claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the office (1) enter the requested amendments to the claims; (2) reconsider and withdraw the pending objections and rejections; and (3) pass the pending claims to allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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